



TREE

Three Rivers
Environmental
Educators

TREE weekly update DATE 2009

TREE meetings:

A planning meeting will be held February 12 at 12 noon at Los Portales restaurant in Warsaw. All are welcome to attend. Please let faye.andrashko@va.nacdn.net know if you are planning to attend so we will have enough tables.

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

The Northern Neck Audubon Society invites your group to join their monthly meeting on February 2nd at 7:00 at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock. **Teta Kain will give a presentation on the Dragon Run**, one of the most pristine rivers on the east coast. The Dragon, on the Middle Peninsula, runs 35 miles from its source to the Piankatank River and is bordered by Essex, King & Queen, Middlesex and Gloucester Counties. It is one of the northern-most cypress/tupelo swamps and has been described as a time capsule of a Chesapeake Bay tributary river from 100 years ago and a river similar to one Captain John Smith would have seen 400 years ago. The remoteness of this million year old swamp contributes to its abundant wildlife and unique plant species.

Teta Kain, past president of the Virginia society of Ornithology and the Friends of Dragon Run, has been a wildlife photographer for over 35 years. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States photographing everything from birds to bears and bugs to buttercups. Kain also serves as paddle master for Friends of Dragon Run and leads canoe and kayak trips down the river

2009 Winter Plant ID Workshop

February 6th, 9am-3pm, VIMS

This first VAWP Workshop for the 2009 series will present an in-depth workshop on Winter Plant Identification in the Coastal Region. VAWP is teaming with the CBNERR in Virginia at VIMS to bring you this workshop. Each participant will be provided with a copy of Core & Ammons "Woody Plants in Winter". The workshop will include a classroom segment in the morning and a laboratory exercise in the afternoon.

Registration required - [click here](#)

Saving Groundwater in the Northern Neck

In a new course sponsored by Rappahannock Institute of Lifelong Learning (RILL), instructor Frank W. Fletcher, groundwater geologist, will discuss unregulated withdrawals from the artesian aquifers that threaten the groundwater supply of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. This timely course, "Saving Our Groundwater", will begin on Thursday, February 19 and continue Feb. 26 and March 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Northumberland Public Library, Heathsville. All interested citizens are invited to register and attend. To register for a RILL course, contact Sharon Drotleff, at the Rappahannock Community College/Educational Foundation, Inc. by phoning 804-333-6707 or 877-722-3679. Email: sdrotleff@rappahannock.edu RILL is a community service of RCC/EFI. A fee of \$35 accompanying registration assures a place in the class, as well as copies of materials.

Family Day 2009

February 21 9:00 am -1:00 pm

Festival Halle, Reedville, VA

Sponsored by Reedville Fishermen's Museum, Education Committee

The Chesapeake Bay: A Partnership of Humans and Nature Learn about the amazing spirit of the Chesapeake Bay. Plenty of fun facts and hands-on experiments. For kids of all ages. Food available throughout the day. Free admission, Groups welcome. For more information call 804-453-6529

Beekeeping Class

Classes will be held at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville on Monday nights from 7-9pm, beginning February 23 and lasting 8 weeks. Registration is \$100 per set of instructional materials; families and friends are welcome to share in order to keep their costs down. Call the Northumberland Extension Office: 804-580-5694 to register.

Project WILD Facilitator Training

February 25th-27th, Douthat State Park

If you are interested in becoming a certified facilitator for these environmental education curricula, please contact Suzie Gilley or Carol Zokaïtes. Attendance at a prior workshop is required. Cost is \$35, which includes meals and lodging. Registration deadline is February 6. If you are going, let me know and we can carpool charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Other Events:

2009 Virginia MAMEA Mini-Conference

February 28th, 8:30am-4pm, Virginia Aquarium

Enjoy a day of discussion, hands-on activity, and outdoor exploration while sharing strategies for getting conservation into the classroom curriculum.

For more information - [click here](#)

The VIRGINIA VERNAL POOLS PROGRAM

Sponsored through the Department of Biology at Sweet Briar College in central Virginia is pleased to announce an offering of the SPRING POOLS INSTITUTE March 16-19, 2009

This advanced field workshop focuses on the ecological and conservation dynamics of vernal pools and related wetlands, with emphasis on their amphibian fauna and other distinctive biota. http://www.lynchburgbiz.com/virginiavernalpools/spring_institute.htm
(Note: different contact info provided below)

This workshop will be based at Sweet Briar College (with classroom instruction and lodging/meals available on campus) and EXPLORE A WIDE VARIETY OF WETLAND environments throughout the Piedmont, Blue Ridge and Ridge & Valley regions of Virginia.

<http://www.sbc.edu/>
http://www.biology.sbc.edu/biophotos_spr08.html

This workshop is open to all natural resource professionals, naturalists, educators and enthusiasts of the subject. Space is limited to the FIRST 10 REGISTRANTS. Registration is required. FMIC: Mike Hayslett at mhayslett@sbcc.edu or 434-381-6439

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Savvy PR for Nonprofits

This four-part series, written by Susan Young, an award-winning news and PR entrepreneur with experience in both the government and nonprofit sectors, will help readers increase their organizations' name recognition, visibility, credibility, and revenues. The series will explore the value of and difference between public relations and advertising, and subsequently offer tips for writing effective press releases, speaking to reporters and pitching stories, and mapping out a proactive PR plan for 2009. To read Part Three, "Life's a Pitch: How to Talk to the Media," click the link above.

Wikigardens

Wikigardens (www.wikigardens.com) is a new website for the landscape architect, the practiced gardener, the amateur plant nerd and anyone who falls between the three. It is primarily a site for plant research. The site features a 50,000 plant encyclopedia, a garden showcase, a forum, a members' journal, seasonal topics of interest, and listings of local garden groups. Any member (membership is free) can contribute information about plants, successes and failures, helpful hints, post shots of their garden, etc. The information is vetted by other WikiGardens members to insure it is correct and trustworthy. Additionally unique to Wikigardens is the absence of annoying pop up and sidebar ads.

New Invasive Species Guidebook Available:

Developed by the Wildlife Habitat Council, it is available for free download at <http://www.wildlifehc.org/ewebeditpro/items/O57F20712.pdf> Originally devised as a tool for land managers at Department of Defense installations, the guidebook is applicable to management of any natural area. The book's first section focuses on identification and management of specific invasive plants that occur in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Later chapters contain information about invasive species removal and habitat restoration techniques, including discussion of how to minimize impacts on native wildlife while controlling invasive species, how to prevent recurring invasions, how to restore native habitat, and how to use partnerships to achieve goals.

Virginia Naturally Newsletter

The Virginia Naturally Newsletter has been posted. <http://www.vanaturally.com/>. Please send them any stories or links of interest that you would like to see included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Tools with a Cost:

Making Time to Write Grants

The number one reason people give for not applying for a particular grant is that they don't have the time. This 90-minute webinar is full of practical advice that can help you organize your approach to grantseeking by teaching you how to create the time to do the job and do it well. Cynthia Adams, CEO of GrantStation, will cover everything from big picture thinking and how it can drive your grantseeking efforts, to how to use volunteers effectively. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 2 p.m. EST. The registration fee is \$89 per person. Click on the underscored title to register.

Grant Writing: Getting Off to a Good Start

If you are new to grant writing, this 90-minute webinar will help you identify the information you need to collect and the files you need to establish to begin developing compelling grant proposals. Cynthia Adams will use a PowerPoint presentation and the GrantStation website as visual training tools. A 30-minute question and answer session provides the opportunity to ask tough questions, and share the challenges you face as a beginning grant writer. The webinar will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 2 p.m. EST. The registration fee is \$89 per person. Click on the underscored title above to register.

Grants:

Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation

The mission of the Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation is to provide support for quality special-needs children's programs throughout the United States. The Foundation's focus is on nonprofit organizations dedicated to developing innovative programs, disseminating ideas, or providing direct care or services for children with special needs, acute illnesses, or chronic disabilities. Grant requests of up to \$5,000 are considered. Preference is given to small organizations that might not otherwise be helped. Requests are accepted from January 1 through August 31 of each year. Visit the Foundation's website for application guidelines.

Jobs

Green Jobs National Conference

February 4th-6th, Washington DC

The 2009 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference offers a wide variety of workshops that will allow participants to explore new ideas and exchange best practices, focusing on how solutions to environmental challenges can be used to drive economic development and create successful and profitable businesses. ***For more information - [click here](#)***

Editor's note: There is a free jobs expo on February 5. Details on the website above—click Green Jobs Expo.

Assistant Director, Conservation Education

National Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

Salary range: 102,721.00-133,543.00

JOB SUMMARY:

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on <http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=TFCGT>.

Stormwater Outreach Manager

VDCR, Richmond

Oversee the Division of Soil & Water Conservation's Stormwater Management Program's technical assistance and outreach efforts related to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Permit Regulations. The successful candidate will serve as the lead individual in the development of a comprehensive outreach strategy and training materials for Virginia localities for the purpose of educating and informing them of the new VSMP regulations and policies, and will work in conjunction with others to coordinate this effort.

For more info: click [here](#)

Environmental Educator

James River Association, Richmond

The Environmental Educator provides educational experiences to the James River watershed community through various educational programs, community partnerships and events.

Duties:

1. Present engaging programs outdoors as well as in a classroom environment.
2. Guide youth and adults on overnight camping and day canoeing trips.
3. Work well with diverse audiences.
4. Apply creativity and energy to presentations and program planning.
5. Have excellent presentation skills and be able to think on their feet.
6. Instill interest and appreciation for the James River and the natural world.
7. Work on multiple diverse projects at one time.

Qualifications:

1. Experienced leading outdoor environmental education programs.
2. Experienced leading camping and canoeing trips with children and/or adults.
3. Possesses a general knowledge of the environment with specific emphasis on watersheds, aquatic ecology and related issues.
4. Knowledgeable about Native American history and John Smith in relation to the James River.
5. Able to write lesson plans in accordance with Virginia Standards of Learning.
6. Demonstrates excellent communication and computer skills.
7. Takes initiative and works independently in a deadline-driven environment, with attention to detail.
9. Willing to travel throughout James River watershed to implement projects.

JRA offers a comprehensive benefits package and a dynamic and flexible work environment.

Job Type: Full Time permanent
Salary Detail: \$25,000 - \$30,000
Deadline: 2-6-2009
Contact Person: Heather Murdoch, Education Coordinator
James River Association
9 South 12th Street, 4th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu